THE EXCITER

Formerly Called Gutter Dope, Established in 1934.

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VOL. 4, NO. 7 JULY-AUGUST, 1961 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

CLUB MEETINGS FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE PERRY SHANKLE CO., 1801 SO. FLORES ST., 8 P.M.

FIELD DAY RECAP

The final results from Field Day are not available at this time, but in spite of poor conditions on most of the bands it looks like W5SC will turn in a very creditable score this year. Those of you who did not come out to Woodlawn Lake, or any other Field Day site, missed a lot of fun (plus some work thrown in occasionally). I think everyone had a good time and enjoyed every minute of both days. Of course, not everyone had an air-conditioned bus for an operation position like a few fellows we know; but when you get to be their age you just need all that comfort and luxury. Us younger (?) fellows lived it up out in the open.

We must thank the distributors who supplied many items that were needed to make Field Day a success. Marion, of Radio & TV Parts, supplied hot tamales for those who wanted them and Mrs. Shocket of Modern Electronics helped out with some mighty delicious barbecued chicken. Modern also loaned us a push-up mast for the 2 meter station.

There was an early report of a sea serpent in the lake, but a close investigation turned up a 10 meter operator looking for some DX on the bottom of the lake. He reported that there were no fish in the lake as far as he could see. We are not real sure if he could see, see? Hi! There was a bit of excitement when K5SJB's generator decided to go into orbit. Luckily, only a couple of fuses and capacitors gave way on the equipment it was servicing. Robbie said he needed a better generator anyway.

Overheard a couple of XYL's singing the "XYL's SONG FOR FIELD DAY" to the tune of Pack Up Your Troubles. It went like this:

Pack up a Picnic and the Field Day gear
and Swoop! Swoop! Swoop!
There's room for junior on the case of beer
the ice may cure his croup.
What's the use of Worryin'?
The O-M hates a droop—sooooo
Off to the Field Day, it's your duty dear
And Swoop! Swoop! Swoop!

(meaning of Swoop is "Suffering Wives of Operators Protectorate".)

So much for culture. When the final results are known they will appear in the EXCITER.

FLASH!!

We have just received information that the San Antonio Radio Club made over 2000 contacts and scored over 16,000 points. The totals would have been greater but the 80 meter logs were lost and all of those contacts couldn't be counted. Now we have to wait till the ARRL has checked the logs that were submitted before we know just how we came out. The results are usually published in the December QST but you will see them here first.

WEST GULF CONVENTION

The ARRL West Gulf Division Convention will be held in Kerrville, Texas on 13, 14 and 15 October. The following information concerning the convention was supplied by W5FNH, C. R. Toler, who is Mayor of Kerrville.

Editor K5PKX
VHF Editor W5LFM
DX Editor W5LGG
Mobile Editor W5EJT
Novice Editors K5RNN and K5RNO
Advertising Manager K5VCR
Circulation Manager K5OPT
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THE SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB W5SC
W5HHE, Pres. W5IWE, V. P.
K5VCR, Sec. K5TYI, Treas.
W5DKF, Program chairman

All meetings of the league will be held in Kerrville's beautiful new City Auditorium, just one block from the Blue Bonnet Hotel. The banquet and dance will be held at the auditorium. A big barbecue will be held at the City Park. There will also be a very fine ladies program so be sure to bring the XYL. The price of $10 will cover entrance to the Convention, chance at prizes (fabulous), the barbecue, the dance and the banquet. In order to promote the interest of the younger hams a reduced price of $3.50 will allow them to attend all meetings and chances at the prizes. If they wish to attend the dance, banquet or barbecue, the cost will nominal.

Early pre-registrations are welcomed. Send pre-registrations to W5FNH C. R. Toler, P. O. Box 624, Kerrville, Texas or to T. E. Clark, K5YRL, 800 Water St., Kerrville, Texas.

Hotel rates will be from $4.00 to $5.00 single and from $5.00 to $6.00 Double. If four boys wish to get together and share a twin double room the rate will be $8.00. Motel rates will be the same as they have always been in the winter time. Be sure to specify wha tkind of accommodations you desire when writing, hotel or motel, and they will confirm them for you. Better make them soon or all will be taken.

As more information is received concerning the programs and speakers you will read about it in the Exciter. Now start making those plans to be in Kerrville on October 13, 14 & 15 and we will see you there.

DX NOTES

Cost of QSL'ing goes up! As of July 1st, postal rates for many classes of overseas mail went up. First class letters (1 ounce) by surface mail to any country of the world now require eleven cents (11c) postage; (the old rate was 8c). Post cards by Airmail to any country now go for 11c (old rate was 10c) and airmail letters to South America now require 13c postage (old rate 10c). The 15c airmail letter rate to Europe and the 25c airmail letter rate to Africa-Asia remains unchanged. The information service at the downtown post-office can answer your specific inquiries about rates to any particular country.

ARRL BOARD BACKS MOVE TO RESERVE 14,335 kc to 14,350 kc FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF DX STATIONS! This bit of news is certainly encouraging to DX'ers. It seems to offer the best solution for the plight of SSB DX stations who all too often find their weak signals

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completely drowned out by W/VE stations. Although many hams feel that FCC action will be required to clear that band segment for DX use, the ARRL Board feels that we are capable of handling the matter ourselves; and have requested that all W/VE hams refrain from transmitting on those 15 kilocycles. If their request is honored, it will be a boon to 20 meter SSB DX for all concerned. After all, if we can't hear them, we can't work them.

It's not too early to make plans to attend the West Gulf DG Club sessions at the Division Convention in Kerrville October 14 & 15. Non-club members are most welcome, and its always a pleasure to meet other DX chasers. It is hoped that some of the W4BPD DX-pedition films will be shown or possibly some of the Malpelo foray, and we might even persuade W5ADZ, the Clubs' leading DX'er, to tell us how he does it!

73 & DX,
Len W5LGG

40 METERS

Well, it's good to be back again after missing one month due to a six-weeks trip to Dayton, Ohio to attend school. I didn't get on 40 meters any to speak of but did get to listen some. Unless you have had the opportunity to operate from that area you can't begin to realize how much better band conditions we enjoy down here during the day. QRM is terrific, whereas during the day all we can hear, generally, is TEXAS. Glad to be back and QRM'in 40 again.

Heard K5GMV, Bill, a new general on 40. Welcome to the old rat-race Bill. K5QFH, Jack, has been operating portable from Port Aransas. Wonder if the fish are biting? W5YXV, Fred, and W5NAV/5, Skeet, were heard chatting on the band the other evening. Marion, W5DBN, has been working quite a bit of DX lately. Hope to have a complete report on this next month. Marion is also working on a 40 meter beam.

Who pops up on 40 the other day but Willard, W5FND. Willard had a little fire at his QTH and was temporarily QRT. No it wasn't the ham-shack.

73,
Aubrey K5MOF

VHF AND UP

The annual spring-summer Sporadic E season is in full swing and the San Antonio 50 mc. group has been having a field day at home.

On 30 May '61 W5EJT stopped working HF DX and worked W7RUX, Phoenix, on 50 mc. CW. They both shifted to 144 mc. for an attempt to hook up via 2 meter Es. No contact was established by them, though many 144 mc. contacts have been documented.

Es and ducting were evident on the path to Houston on 30 May as the

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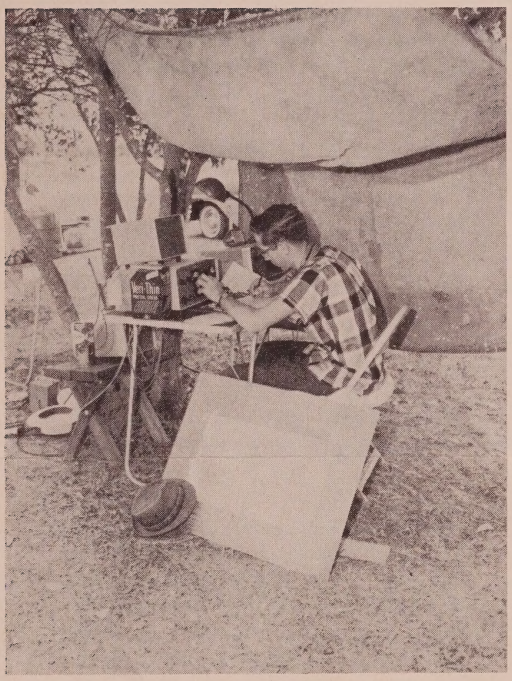
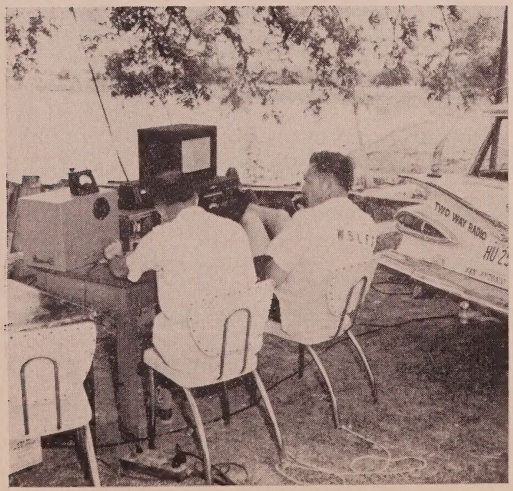
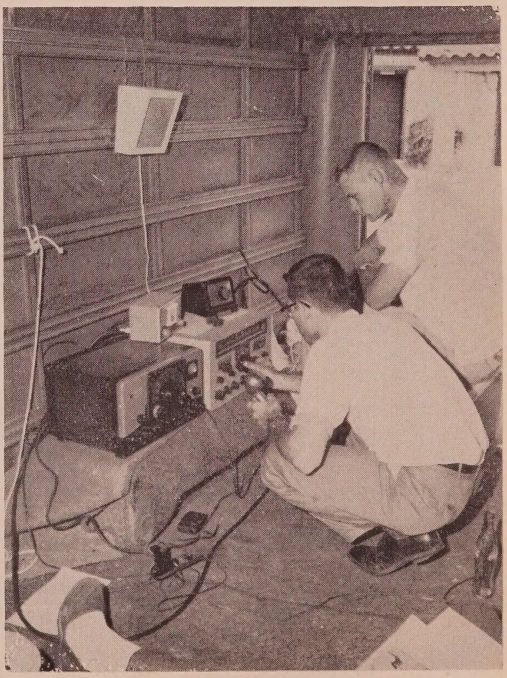
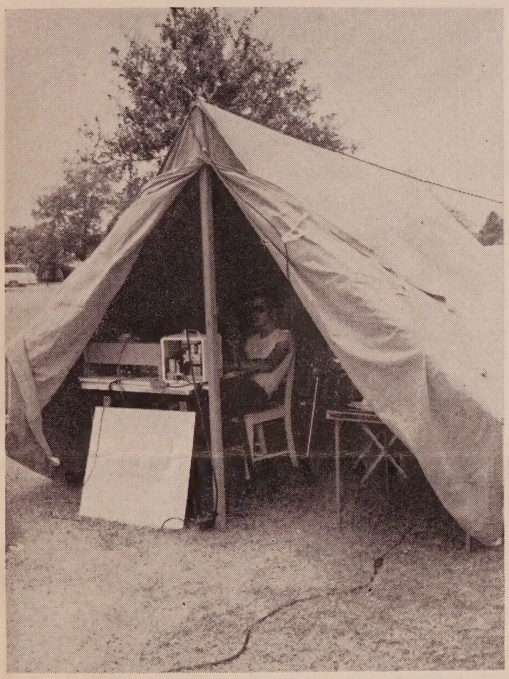
FIELD

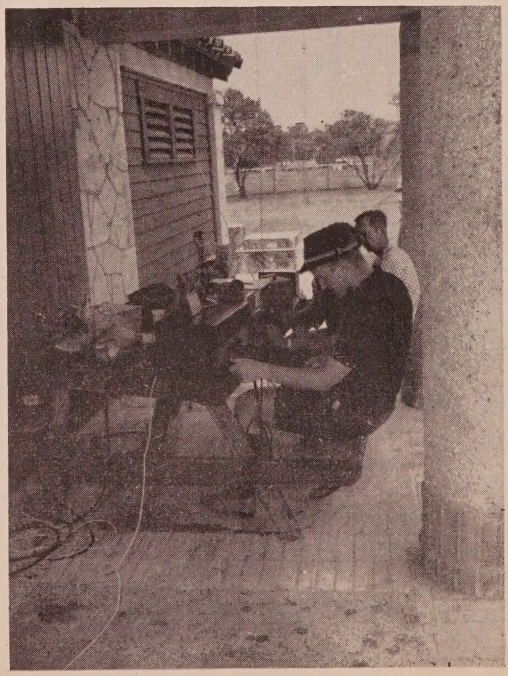






DAY '61





35.58 mc. page station was coming through by Es and TV chan. 2-11 were coming in via the ducting route. 35 mc. is generally too low for ducting and chan. 11 (192-198 mc) is too high for such acute angle reflection by Es. The writer has observed many such instances where the Houston path opened up in the late evening after the Es path to W4, W9, and WO has closed down.

During one of the recent openings, K5HVC worked the remainder of the states required for WAS. Previously Bert had worked new states Hawaii and Alaska via F2. Further WAS awards will be virtually impossible to make with sky-wave signals until about 1969, if then. Though Alaska may be worked by multiple-hop Es from the U.S., work to Hawaii would have to be by ducting and this from the west coast, as per KH6UK-W6NLZ. Project OSCAR, amateur radio relay by satellite, may remove this stumbling block in the future. OSCAR I will transmit on 145 mc. and will be placed into orbit along with the DISCOVERER series, perhaps this autumn.

K5VTS was heard in a recent 50 mc. opening trying frantically to catch KOVTS.

On 10 June in the AM, Texas and Florida were working each other by backscatter, pointing their antennas to the north. BS of this type is usually associated with high F2 MUF, but sufficiently intense Es clouds could provide the reflection required.

Radiation in outer space seems to be taking its toll on the boron-type solar batteries (cells) of Vanguard I. Expected to stay in orbit for thousands of years and transmitting continuously for 3 years on 108 mc., the signals have been interrupted since Nov. '60 at regular intervals of about 5 sec. as the satellite tumbles at a rate of once each 20 sec. The SNAF atomic battery powering 2 of the 4 transmitters aboard TRANSIT-4A may alleviate this outer space radiation problem. Good luck for now.

Cal Graf, W5LFM

GUTTER DOPE

K5OZO is moving to a new QTH. Maybe he is looking for a high TVI-proof hill.

K5PVI seen commuting from Houston on weekends.

K5OPT & W5EJT back from vacationing in Colorado. While in Denver they visited with K5GUH and K5-OPS, the Chastains.

W5OZQ, also known as W5OZ4 has a new boat. Listen for him operating MM (Medina Mobile).

W5THU and W5WXT, Ralph and Inez, spent their vacation in the East and stopped off to see W5VPQ and W5TSE in Virginia.

W5LFG is being kept busy with twin Harmonics, YL's too.

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K5VCR completing his twenty by twenty hamshack, if you can use the word shack in describing it. Never saw one guy with soooo much stuff in one building. Charlie really has a very nice setup for his S-Line and RTTY. All he needs to complete it is a 40 meter beam.

K5UTO finally on 6 meters.

K5HDE just received his General ticket, plus an electrical crank-up tower. Oh yes, he bought the tower. The FCC didn't give it to him, just the ticket.

K5BGB sporting a new Renault. (Don't he know that it's whats up front that counts?).

We are still trying to figure out how 40 meters got along while Aubrey, K5MOF, was in OHIO. Evidently they made it but I'll bet it wasn't easy.

W5MTQ and W5SYL, George and Iva Haley, are now living in Brownsville.

Fou should hear W5EJT working the DX on 6 Meter CW. He snags them right and left.

Congratulations to Mike Smith, KN5JWZ on receiving his Novice ticket. Mike is busy working 40 meters. Give a listen for him.

John Mohn, W5MEU and XYL are back in San AnAtonio after an absence of several years . . . John is retired from the service and they plan to make this their permanent QTH. We would like to welcome them both back to SA and hope that they will visit our club meetings so that other local hams may make their acquaintance.

Word has been received from Alaska that Dennie Royce, K9GIR, is heading back for warmer climate. Friends of Dennis will be happy to hear that he will be stationed here again.

Lee, K5HZR, is looking for a regular San Antonio station to check into the 7290 traffic net to help handle traffic for this area. Well, how about some of you hams giving Lee a hand?

Are you a member of ARRL? Remember, the American Radio Relay League represents all amateurs on frequency allocations and are our representatives. Not only does $5.00 give you membership, but you also receive QST.

Floyd Roland, W5JKU, is now head of the physics department at San Antonio College.

Clay Laster, W5ZPV, is taking a trip to Germany.

San Antonio Radio Club

Best Wishes To

Modern Electronics Company

in their new location

LETTERS

Dear Amigos,

Well amigo thees Hams done got first agan lak they always have in the way of communications. Maybe all Hams don't read so gud the english lak me an you an dint get the news abt the first Ham wat was in that rocket the fallers shoot up from Florida. Annyway after reading wat it was all abt Pancho see that it was another Ham wat done somting first. Guess it won't be long now befor sum more Hams will get a chance to rocket out to the moon an set up sum xmitters up there. How about volunteers from sum net, Hi. Of course all Hams suld feel plenty proud abt wat we have done in open up thees communications from way back to the time when Ole Man Noah have that Maritime Mobile during the year she rain a lot. He hav his trubble getting out just lak any Ham today wat holler CQ and nobuddy cum back to him. Finally he send out a cupple of crows with QSL cards attached but they fly so far they run out of gas and can't mak it back to home QTH so guess they fall in water and the alligators got them. Then Ole Noah send out pretty white pigeon an she fly around an around an after while cum back wid QSL card frum Calif. where they hav olive trees and things. Thats where they get the expression Calif. Kilowatt. It was lak this. Two Italians had climed up in olive trees to get out of the high water an had been up there wid out anny thing to eat for several days. (Water didn't get very high in Calif.) So when XX won Italian se thees pigeon he hollar at other faller an say, "Kill et, kill et", an other faller he say "Killawat, kill-a-watt.". Yeah I think that joke stinks too. Anyway all through the world history you can find where sum Ham was first in getting message out or doing sumthin furst that nobudy else had dun.

Pancho

(The above was stolen and condensed fron "STENSCOPE" published by W5TLE in Woodsboro)

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